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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

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To: Examiner Janet L. Epps-Smith, Group Art Unit 1633

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From: Jon T. Self, Ph.D.

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Please direct all questions concerning the transmittal of these pages to Jon Self

RE: Serial No. 10/573,385 (Tomoki HAMAMOTO et al.), filed May 7, 2007,
Confirmation No. 9339

**Member of a bar other than
D.C., practice is limited to
matters and proceedings
before Federal Courts
and Agencies.*

MESSAGE:

Dear Examiner Epps-Smith

I'm attaching a set of proposed claim amendments for your convenience.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 4 (which are cancelled) and to clarify that the "thus-precipitated CMP-NeuAc has a purity measured by HPLC of 95% or more." I'd like to discuss whether this might overcome the outstanding obviousness rejection.

The remaining amendments put the dependent claims into proper form by reciting "The...".

I will give you a call at 2:30 this afternoon.

Many thanks

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PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A process for purification of CMP-N-acetylneuraminic acid (CMP-NeuAc) without employment of any chromatography treatment, comprising the following steps (1) to (4):

step (1): a step of adding a calcium ion or a magnesium ion to a CMP-NeuAc-containing solution, thereby causing phosphoric acid, pyrophosphoric acid, and a nucleotide which coexist with CMP-NeuAc to precipitate;

step (2): a step of adding a phosphatase to the CMP-NeuAc-containing solution, thereby converting the nucleotide which coexists with CMP-NeuAc into a nucleoside;

step (3): a step of adding an alcohol having a carbon number of 5 or less, thereby precipitating CMP-NeuAc in the form of salt; and

step (4): a step of collecting the thus-precipitated CMP-NeuAc,

~~wherein steps (1) and (2) are performed in a sequence selected from:~~

~~step (1) and then step (2), or~~

~~step (1) and step (2) performed simultaneously; and~~wherein these steps are performed in a sequence selected from:

~~step (1), step (2), step (3), and then step (4), or~~

~~step (1) and step (2) are performed simultaneously and then steps (3) and (4) are performed sequentially, and~~

wherein the thus-precipitated CMP-NeuAc has a purity measured by HPLC of 95% or more.

2. (Original) ~~A process according to claim 1, wherein these steps are performed in the following sequence: step (1), step (2), step (3), and then step (4).~~

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) ~~A process according to claim 1, wherein step (1) and step (2) are performed simultaneously and then steps (3) and (4) are performed sequentially.~~

5. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The process according to claim 1, wherein step (3) and step (4) are performed a plurality of times.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The process according to claim 1, wherein the phosphatase is *Escherichia coli* alkaline phosphatase.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The purification process according to claim 1, wherein the CMP-NeuAc collected in step (4) is subjected to cation exchange reaction for substitution of the cationic moiety of the CMP-NeuAc.

10. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The purification process according to claim 9, wherein the cation exchange reaction employs an ion-exchange resin.